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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,823	06/27/2003	Raj Manakkal	01014-1003	7983
7590 12/10/2004				
DITTHAVONG & CARLSON, P.C.		EXAMINER		
Suite A		LAU, TUNG S		
10507 Braddock Rd		ART UNIT		
Fairfax, VA 22032		PAPER NUMBER		
		2863		

DATE MAILED: 12/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/608,823

Applicant(s)

MANAKKAL, RAJ

Examiner

Tung S Lau

Art Unit

2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 15-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3, 5, 10 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See office action.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The IDS filed on 6-27-2003 has been accepted and signed by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kell (U.S. Patent 5,924,057).

Regarding claim 1:

Kell discloses a method for preventing fraudulent tampering of an odometer disposed within a vehicle, comprising: determining whether the vehicle has been driven for a predetermined period of time (abstract, Col. 3-4, Lines 5-8); counting a number of pulses on an input to the odometer during the predetermined period of time (Col. 3-4, Lines 5-8); and signaling an odometer fraud condition based on the number of pulses and said determining whether the vehicle has been driven for the predetermined period of time (Col. 3-4, Lines 5-8).

Regarding claim 9:

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Kell discloses a method for preventing tampering of a recording device disposed within a vehicle, comprising: determining whether the vehicle has been driven for a predetermined period of time (Col. 3-4, Lines 5-8); counting a number of pulses on an input to the recording device during the predetermined period of time (Col. 3-4, Lines 5-8); comparing the counted number of pulses with a predetermined threshold (Col. 3-4, Lines 5-8); and if the vehicle has been driven for the predetermined period of time and if the counted number of pulses is less than or equal to the predetermined threshold, then signaling a fraud condition (Col. 3, Lines 38-52).

Regarding claim 4, Kell discloses a gear shift position (Col. 2, Lines 30-42); Regarding claim 6, Kell discloses pulse are received on the input to the odometer (Col. 3, Lines 5-13); Regarding claims 7, 13, Kell discloses computer medium instruction (fig. 2, unit 30, 34, 24); Regarding claims 8, 14, Kell discloses memory and a controller (fig. 2, unit 30, 32); Regarding claim 12, Kell discloses digital odometer (abstract).

Claim Objections

3. Claims 2, 3, 5, 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: prior art fail to teach fraud condition is signaled when the number is zero, the predetermined time is at least one hour, the error to be displayed on the odometer.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 15-17 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
Independent claim 15 contains allowable subject matter. None of the prior art of record shows or fairly suggests the claimed invention.

Regarding claim 15:

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 15 is the inclusion of the method steps of determining whether the vehicle has been driven for an hour and causing the error indicating to be displayed on the odometer. It is these features found in the claim, as they are claimed in the combination,

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that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record
which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

Claims 16-17 are allowed due to their dependency on claim 15.

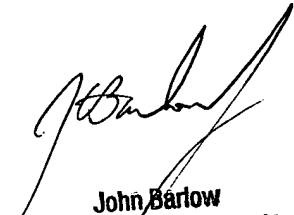
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung S Lau whose telephone number is 571-272-2274. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TL



John Barlow
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800